



THE
athens
CHEAT SHEET



Welcome

to UGA and to Athens! You've just stepped into four of the most exciting and transformative years of your life. And there's no better place to spend them than in Athens! Few of us leave this town the same way we arrived – because it's a place of deep community, curious minds, and a willingness to grow. We put our heads together and wanted to share some of our Athens favorites in the hopes that they become the places where you connect with others, explore your faith, and fall in love with this town!

Weekly UGA RUF events:

Large Group – Wednesdays at 8 p.m., Downtown Athens (165 Pulaski St.)

Freshmen Fellowship – Tuesdays at 8 p.m., Downtown Athens (165 Pulaski St.), 6:45 Bolton dinner

Community Groups – weeknights, schedule to come in August

Stay connected for more info.



ugaruf



RUF at UGA



Ruf at Uga



uga.ruf.org



first year musts

TUBING

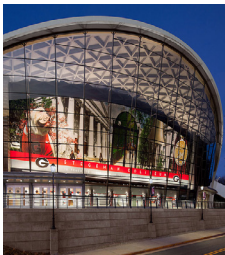
Tube down the Middle Oconee River in \$5 tubes from Walmart and end at the Botanical Gardens. It's an absolute blast and you'll have a story or two by the end.

TRAVEL

Plan a trip with the new friends you've made. It doesn't matter where, just plan something out with a group of people and do it!

SPORTS

Go to at least one of every sporting event. Most are free to students and even if you know nothing about the sport, it's an easy way to get people together. Plus, there's tons of free stuff.



STEGEMAN COLISEUM

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Take a picture on the first and last day of class, hang by the side door of the Georgia Theatre and meet your favorite bands, go to the GA/FL game, play a giant game of capture the flag on North Campus.

underrated



ATHENS TWILIGHT

ICE DAWGS

UGA has a club hockey team! Games are only \$5 and loads of fun. You may even get to see them win another Conference Championship!

THE ROOK & PAWN

It's a board game café downtown. Pay \$5 and you can play board games all night while enjoying some coffee and tea.

ATHENS TWILIGHT

Twilight is a late night, international bike race downtown every April. It's also a festival with music, food trucks, and a 5K.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

The Botanical Gardens, Sandy Creek Park, Special Collections Library, Athens Skate Inn \$4 nights

the best

BREAKFAST **Mama's Boy** – You can eat chocolate cake for breakfast plus those biscuits and homemade jam are to die for. What's not to love?

Mayflower Downtown – It's cheap, across from the arch, a blast from the past, and always good. Be careful though, it's cash only!

Big City Bread – They have creative and delicious options with a low key atmosphere. It's a hit with parents and grandparents every time!

Honorable mentions – The Grit, Ideal Bagel, Mama Jewel's Kitchen, Athens Bagel Co., White Tiger, Bread Basket.



MAMA'S BOY

STUDY SPOT

On Campus Indoor – MLC, SLC for easy seating, the bean bag chairs in the Science Library, Main Library Reading Room.

On Campus Outdoor – Latin American Ethnobotanical Gardens, Rutherford Hall's Porch, North Campus Lawn, Founder's Memorial Garden.

Off Campus – Botanical Gardens (indoor and outdoor seating), Athens-Clarke County Library, Carnegie Library on Health Sciences Campus, the basement of Walker's (downtown).



NORTH CAMPUS LAWN

MUSIC VENUE **Georgia Theatre** – Hands down. We're convinced it's a magical place. And if you need proof, Mason Ramsey (the Walmart yodeling kid) will perform there in the fall.

40 Watt – It's smaller and more chill than the Georgia Theatre with a great atmosphere. It's also where R.E.M, Judah & the Lion, and numerous other bands played their first shows.

Other notable venues – Farm 255 and Hodgson Hall



GEORGIA THEATRE

COFFEE SHOP

Jittery Joe's – It's an Athens classic and a staple for campus life and studying. Not to mention the coffee hits the spot every time.

Hendershots – Great coffee plus stand up comedy nights and performers other nights.

Honorable mentions – 1000 Faces, Donderos, Buvez, Walker's, Iron Works, Franklin House, Sips



BUVEZ

ATHENS FOOD

When you're tired of the dining halls, check out these great Athens joints – Kelly's Jamaican Foods, Maepole, Clocked, Taqueria del Sol, Cali N Tito's, Trapeze, The Place, Ted's Most Best, Shokitini, TlaloC Mexican Restaurant, Hi-Lo, Automatic Pizza, Blazer's-N-Hull, The Grit, home.made – to name a few.

And just remember, there are four strategically placed Chick-fil-As in Athens for a reason.



CALI N TITO'S

DESSERT

Most recommended dessert – The white chocolate cheesecake at Last Resort

Most recommended dessert place – Last Resort or Big City Bread (it's a tie)

Honorable mentions – UGA Creamery, DePalma's Italian Cafe, Alumni Cookie Dough, Condor Chocolates, The Grit, Ike & Jane



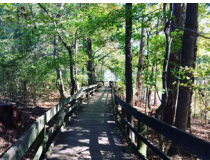
LAST RESORT GRILL

PLACE TO RUN

Ramsey – Air conditioning. It's the south, after all.

Lake Herrick – The loop over at the IM Fields is a great run. It's safe and has several trails on top of the loop so you won't get bored with it.

Honorable mentions – Botanical Gardens, Whitehall Forest, Dudley park, Athens Greenway



LAKE HERRICK

hidden gems



HUNTER-HOLMES BUILDING

The Bear Hollow Zoo (a prime first date spot), Dudley Park, America's Thrift (be patient and trust the thrifting process), The Tree Room, Ben Burton Park (a great spot for a picnic or some time in the river), the second floor balcony of Hunter-Holmes (picnic part 2?), Whitehall Forest.

first year advice

from former freshmen

Talk it up – Actually talk to people in your classes, especially classes in large lecture halls. Become friends with upperclassmen, and try to build a relationship with one of your professors, most are great.

Clueless? Same! – Even when you feel like you have no clue what you're doing, chances are, neither do most of the people around you, so just have fun figuring it out together.

Comparison is the thief of joy – Don't compare yourself to other people. They may have a group of friends and their life figured out in September. You don't have to, it's okay. Things will fall into place, but it may not happen for you until later on.

Mealtime isn't scary – You're not a loser if you eat alone in the dining hall, everyone does it. If you want, figure out when other people are eating. For instance, a ton of RUF people eat lunch together in the hearth room of Bolton every day. If you're looking for a familiar face during crazy lunch hours, try there.

Movement is key – Don't let yourself stay in the dorm. Try to get involved, it'll be so worth it.

The start of something new – Don't take UGA/classes as seriously as they take themselves. Freshman year is about more than grades. You're laying the foundation of your social and spiritual life for the next four years, which is exciting stuff!



BOLTON DINING HALL

freshmen fellowship

TUESDAYS AT 8 PM, DOWNTOWN ATHENS (165 PULASKI ST)

WHAT IS IT?

Statistically, some of the loneliest people in America are college freshmen. How's this true when we eat together, live together, and sit in class together? How can it still feel like we're on our own? Often we're surrounded by acquaintances (people who know our name but not our story) but few close friends (people who know how the pieces of our life form



our story). We want that to change! RUF Freshmen Fellowship is here to be a place that's easy to slip into, whether it's your first or tenth visit, connect with other freshmen, build deeper friendships, hear a thought-provoking message from Scripture, and share the ups and downs of the year with people who care.



WHY DOES IT MATTER? FROM RISING SOPHOMORES

Foundations – Freshmen Fellowship is an amazing opportunity to connect with people you will be spending the next four years with. I was able to strengthen my relationships with friends while learning about God in ways that I hadn't before.

Connections – The transition into college was difficult and it was great to really connect with people in the same shoes as me. I didn't go first semester because I didn't think I would have time, but it's something you need to make time for!

Consistency – Tuesdays were always the highlight of my week. Freshmen Fellowship was a regular, familiar place to rest and grow with people I became best friends with. As inconsistent as freshman year can be, this quickly became a community I could trust!



Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) is a campus ministry here to meet every student with the life-altering grace of Jesus Christ. Regardless of your beliefs or doubts, RUF is a place for you to explore Christianity and grow in your understanding of who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him in community with others. This is a ministry where you get to come as you are, but leave changed.

why RUF?

from current RUFers

Leadership – I love that RUF has leaders that are willing to take time, get to know you, and pour into your spiritual life.

Sincerity – REAL people, REAL fellowship, REAL answers for your hard questions! None of that surface level, “everything is good”, “I’m okay” crap that we are bombarded with.

Growth – I have grown so much in faith throughout my time in RUF. This ministry provides many ways to make your faith your own. It’s so good at equipping you for life in college and after.

Community – The people! I found my roommates and best friends at RUF freshman year. It’s such a wonderful community. Also, the teaching is incredible, and the campus minister/interns are always willing and happy to meet with you and just chat about life.

Authenticity – It’s the first place where people saw me as I actually was and still wanted to be my friend. I learned to be honest with God and others here.

local churches

Christ Community – 890 Boulevard; Service starts at 10:00 am

Good Shepherd – 756 N Chase Street; Service starts at 10:30 am

Lord of Glory – 1692 W Hancock Ave (meets out of Hill Chapel);
Service starts at 5:30 pm

Redeemer – 165 Pulaski St; Service starts at 10:30 am

Resurrection – 130 Foundry St; Service starts at 10:30 am

